

REMARKS

The indication by the Examiner that claims 2-7 and 11-16 are allowable as written in acknowledged with appreciation.

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application; the status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 2-7, and 11-16 are allowed;

Claims 1, 10, 17, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph;

Claims 1 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,355,224 to Wallace; and

Claims 8, 9, 17, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wallace in view of British Patent Application No. 2 123 974 A to Swift.

Applicant respectfully requests receipt and approval of the Letter to the Official Draftsperson documents filed on June 24, 2002 (mailed to the Patent and Trademark Office on June 18, 2002).

The indication in the Office Action that the Examiner has objections to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a), is noted. These objections are now moot in view of the cancellation of claims 1 and 10. Accordingly, no amendments to the drawings are submitted.

By this response, all rejected claims have been cancelled, i.e., claims 1, 8-10, 17 and 18 have been cancelled, leaving only allowed claims 2-7 and 11-16 pending.

In view of the cancellation of the rejected claims, the section 112 rejection of claims 1, 10, 17, and 18, the section 103 rejections of claims 1 and 10 as well as the section 103 rejection of claims 8, 9, 17, and 18 are moot.

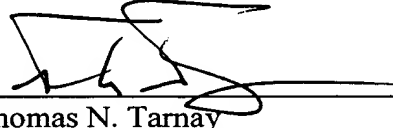
Application No. 09/421,575
Amendment dated November 24, 2004
Reply to Office Action of October 1, 2004

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

This Amendment does not increase the number of independent claims, does not increase the total number of claims, and does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, no fee based on the number or type of claims is currently due. If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed. If any fee, other than the issue fee, is due by this response, such as fee for Petition for Extension of Time or fee required pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, which is not submitted herewith, then please charge such fee to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____


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November 24, 2004